

# THE MELFORD RURAL DISTRICT

IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK

## Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1951

To the Chairman and Members of the Council:—

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report on the Public Health and the Sanitary Conditions of the Melford Rural District for the year 1951.

The Vital Statistics show no significant trend and the various rates do not differ to any marked extent from the national figures. A severe epidemic of influenza occurred and several deaths resulted from this disease or a consequent pneumonia. No deaths were caused by whooping cough, measles, or scarlet fever. No cases of diphtheria were reported.

It is greatly regretted that there is so little progress to report on the sewerage of the district. Nuisance from sewage in ponds and ditches is very apparent and the whole situation is potentially highly dangerous. In Long Melford the need of an efficient sewerage system is urgent.

Efforts were made during the year to encourage the cleaner handling of food and shopkeepers generally were understanding and helpful.

I wish to thank the chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their encouragement during the year. The Clerk of the Council, Mr. J. A. Shaw, the Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. A. E. Burrows, and the Water Engineer, Mr. H. J. Harrington, have given willing assistance for which I am most grateful.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. P. BARCLAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

### SECTION A

#### 1.—General Statistics

Figures in brackets refer to the previous year.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) 12,920 (12,410)

Number of Inhabited Houses, 4,208\* (4,141)

Sum represented by a Penny Rate, £192 3s. (£190 1s. 11d.)

Area 47,270 acres

Rateable Value £46,358 (£44,901)

\* This figure includes Hutment accommodation.

#### 2.—Extracts of Vital Statistics for the Year

LIVE BIRTHS	TOTAL	M	F	
Legitimate	198 (187)	105 (93)	93 (94)	Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated
Illegitimate	10 (9)	1 (4)	9 (5)	population .. .. 16.1 (15.7)
	—	—	—	Adjusted Live Birth Rate per 1,000
TOTAL	208 (196)	106 (97)	102 (99)	estimated population .. .. 16.6
	—	—	—	England and Wales .. .. 15.5 (15.8)
Illegitimate Birth Rate 4.8 per cent.				
STILL BIRTHS				
Legitimate	7 (5)	5 (3)	2 (2)	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population .. 0.54 (0.40)
Illegitimate	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population,
	—	—	—	England and Wales .. .. 0.36 (0.37)
TOTAL	7 (5)	5 (3)	2 (2)	
	—	—	—	
DEATHS registered in 1951				Death Rate (crude) .. .. 14.6 (14.1)
				Death Rate (adjusted) .. .. 11.4
TOTAL—189 (175) Male—84 (93) Female—105 (82)				Death Rate of England and
				Wales .. .. 12.5
Number of women dying in or in consequence of child-birth, pregnancy or abortion				.. 1 (1)

		Males	Females	Total					
Deaths of infants under one year—	Legitimate	1 (4)	7 (3)	8 (7)					
	Illegitimate	0 (0)	1 (1)	1 (1)					
		—	—	—					
	TOTAL	1 (4)	8 (4)	9 (8)					
		—	—	—					
Death rate of infants under one year:—									
	All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38.4 (40.8)
	England and Wales per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29.6 (29.8)
		Males	Females	Total					
Deaths of infants under four weeks of age—	Legitimate	1	2	3					
	Illegitimate	—	1	1					
		—	—	—					
	TOTAL	1	3	4					
		—	—	—					
CAUSES OF DEATH	..	..	..	..	..	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	
Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	3 (0)	3 (0)	6 (0)	
Cancer (all forms)	..	..	..	..	..	13 (17)	11 (11)	24 (28)	
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	..	..	..	..	..	10 (11)	18 (17)	28 (28)	
Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	36 (34)	41 (30)	77 (64)	
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	3 (4)	6 (4)	9 (8)	
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	6 (3)	3 (4)	9 (7)	
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	..	..	..	..	..	1 (2)	2 (1)	3 (3)	
Nephritis	..	..	..	..	..	2 (0)	1 (2)	3 (2)	
Accidents (not motor vehicle)	..	..	..	..	..	2 (1)	1 (1)	3 (2)	
Suicide	..	..	..	..	..	1 (2)	0 (0)	1 (2)	
All other causes	..	..	..	..	..	10 (19)	22 (12)	32 (31)	
		—	—	—		—	—	—	
ALL CAUSES	..	..	..	..	..	87 (93)	108 (82)	195 (175)	
		—	—	—		—	—	—	

## SECTION B

### 1. PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health, who also serves other districts.

Senior Sanitary Inspector—whole time—J. A. E. Burrows, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—whole time—I. V. Hazell, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

### 2. AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The West Suffolk County Council are responsible for the ambulance service which is carried on through the agency of the West Suffolk Branch of the British Red Cross Society.

### 3. NURSING IN THE HOME

The West Suffolk County Council's Home nursing and midwifery service supply six District Nurses.

### 4. The West Suffolk County Council provide five Infant Welfare Centres in the District at Long Melford, Glemsford, Bures, Nayland and Gt. Waldingfield.

### 5. LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory Service, directed by the Medical Research Council at Ipswich has given the district very generous service.

The Public Analyst for the County has given reports on the analysis of the water in the area.

## SECTION C

The following Report is submitted by Mr. H. J. Harrington, the Council's Water Engineer:—

During the year ended 31st March 1952 the Public Water Supplies in the Melford Rural District have been satisfactory and no shortage has been experienced from any works.

Glemsford Waterworks was closed down on 23rd December, water now being supplied in bulk to the northern area parishes by the Thingoe Rural District Council from their Bradfield Combust Tower. This supply is temporary until the Debden Reservoir is completed.

Work of installing new mains in various parts of the district has continued without interruption during the year. All properties in the northern parishes should be receiving main supplies by the end of July.

At the end of March 1952, 2,849 properties were receiving a main water supply, 1,532 being laid on in the houses and 1,317 are served by means of standpipes in gardens.

Below is set out detailed information relating to each parish.

PARISH	LAI D ON SUPPLY	STANDPIPE SUPPLY	TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES CONNECTED
Acton .. ..	50	51	101
Assington .. ..	33	33	66
Great Cornard .. ..	351	91	442
Little Cornard .. ..	27	28	55
Chilton .. ..	19	22	41
Leavenheath .. ..	14	17	31
Newton .. ..	40	20	60
Long Melford .. ..	346	332	678
Little Waldingfield .. ..	48	22	70
Great Waldingfield .. ..	47	83	130
Stoke-by-Nayland .. ..	101	81	182
Nayland .. ..	123	20	143
Glemsford .. ..	142	392	534
Hartest .. ..	30	24	54
Stanstead .. ..	20	47	67
Boxted .. ..	25	0	25
Bures .. ..	116	54	170
Totals	1,532	1,317	2,849

None of the sources of supply tends to have a plumbo-solvent action.

The consumption per head per day of the population served on the various schemes is as follows:—

Central Area Scheme—Source of supply, Great Cornard—

Serving the parishes of Gt. Cornard, Melford, Acton, Gt. and Lt. Waldingfield, Assington, Chilton, Lt. Cornard and Leavenheath—15.34 galls. per head per day (14.34).

Stoke-by-Nayland Scheme—

Serving the parishes of Stoke and Nayland—10.01 galls. per head per day (14.40).

Glemsford Water Scheme—

Serving the parishes of Glemsford, Hartest, Stanstead and Boxted—8.08 galls. per head per day (13.72).

Bures Scheme—

Serving the parish of Bures St. Mary—10.38 galls. per head per day (16.60).

Figures in parentheses refer to the year 1950.

## EXAMINATION OF SUPPLIES

Eighteen samples of water were examined during the year from new mains and from other points in the district, and were found to be **fit for domestic consumption**.

The total amount of water supplied during the year for domestic and non-domestic purposes was 66,537,000 gallons.

## Report of Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector for 1951

### WATER SUPPLIES—PRIVATE

Five private sources of water supply were investigated during the year. Four were shallow dug wells, and samples from these were submitted for bacteriological examination. The Bacteriologist's Report stated that they were highly unsatisfactory and contain faecal type coli. Alternative sources of supply have been found. The fifth case concerned a new bore-well. A sample from this well was submitted to the Public Analyst for a chemical report and pronounced satisfactory.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

No appreciable progress has been made towards the implementation of the various schemes approved in principle after last year's public enquiry.

The analysis of the results of the house-to-house survey completed at the end of last year shows that about a quarter of the houses in the district discharge their drainage more or less directly into ditches and watercourses. The Council is responsible for periodically cleaning out these "open cesspools" in the parishes of Glemsford, Long Melford and Nayland.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING

There are no changes to report in respect of this service.



## CESSPOOL CLEANSING SERVICE

The following table shows the growth of this service since its commencement. The figures show number of emptyings.

YEAR	COUNCIL ESTATE CESSPOOLS	PRIVATE CESSPOOLS	PRIVIES
1946	—	219	—
1947	—	398	69
1948	381	378	64
1949	693	436	74
1950	1,144	514	107
1951	1,522	558	104

By the middle of the year there was such an accumulation of work that the Committee reconsidered the policy of providing one free emptying per year. There was evidence that householders were requesting this free emptying when it was not necessary. The Committee, therefore, recommended that to discourage this a small charge should be made. After considerable discussion the Council agreed to this, and as from the 31st July a charge has been made for each emptying. It remains to be seen whether this will give the desired result. Taking the average over the year, between nine and ten thousand gallons of sewage were transported each working day by the Council's vehicles.

Four hundred and thirteen serving private houses were dealt with during the year, distributed as follows:

Acton .. .. .	16
Alpheton .. .. .	6
Assington .. .. .	6
Boxted .. .. .	1
Bures St. Mary .. .. .	4
Chilton .. .. .	11
Glemsford .. .. .	8
Gt. Cornard .. .. .	218
Gt. Waldingfield .. .. .	11
Hartest .. .. .	7
Lawshall .. .. .	4
Leavenheath .. .. .	6
Lt. Cornard .. .. .	7
Lt. Waldingfield .. .. .	8
Long Melford .. .. .	26
Nayland .. .. .	24
Newton .. .. .	15
Shimpling .. .. .	4
Somerton .. .. .	3
Stanstead .. .. .	5
Stoke-by-Nayland .. .. .	19
Wissington .. .. .	4

## NIGHT-SOIL COLLECTION

By the end of the year the Council's direct labour scheme was extended to cover the parish of Bures St. Mary, previously done under contract. In addition to Bures the scheme now deals with the parishes of Long Melford and the greater parts of Glemsford and Gt. Cornard.

## NUISANCES

No statutory action was required.

## HOUSING ACT, 1936

No statutory action was required under Section 9. A Demolition Order was made on one property under Section 11. This property was so dilapidated that there was a danger of its collapse on to the owner-occupier.

## INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

	CATTLE	CALVES	SHEEP	PIGS
Number Killed .. .. .	986	518	946	535
Number Inspected .. .. .	844	254	500	441

### DISEASES OTHER THAN T.B.

Whole Carcases condemned .. .. .	2	2	Nil	15
	(Cows—nil)			
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	304	2	12	51
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease ..	36.2	1.5	2.4	14.9

### TUBERCULOSIS ONLY

Whole Carcases condemned .. .. .	11	—	—	4
	(Cows—2)			
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	118	—	—	21
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B. ..	15.2	—	—	5.6

The above figures relate to work carried out at the Ministry of Food's Slaughterhouse at Bures St. Mary. The slaughterhouse was closed for reconstruction during the period 23rd April to 5th November. It is now very greatly improved from the slaughtering, hanging and inspection points of view, and provision has been made to prevent gross contamination of the river by the drainage. Inspection arrangements have been reorganised with the object of providing as near as possible 100 per cent inspection.

The following items were condemned at the Bures Depot of the W.M.A.:

Canned Corned Beef	..	..	..	..	..	..	231 lbs.
Pork Offal	..	..	..	..	..	..	70 lbs.

At wholesale and retail shops the following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption:

Meat Preparations	..	..	..	..	..	..	33 tins
Tinned "Hams"	..	..	..	..	..	..	17 tins
Fish Preparations	..	..	..	..	..	..	114 tins
Vegetable Preparations	..	..	..	..	..	..	56 tins
Milk (Evaporated and Condensed)	..	..	..	..	..	..	160 tins
Fruit and Preserves	..	..	..	..	..	..	228 tins
Scotch Pork Pies	..	..	..	..	..	..	300
Frozen Whole Egg	..	..	..	..	..	..	10 kilos
Milk Whipping Compound	..	..	..	..	..	..	18 cartons
Bacon	..	..	..	..	..	..	14 lbs.

Twenty-two premises were registered up to the end of the year for the sale of ice-cream, and two for the frying of fish.

RODENT CONTROL

The following is a summary of the Annual Return made to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Infestation Control Division) under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, for the year ending 31st December:

	TYPE OF PROPERTY					TOTAL
	LOCAL AUTHORITY	DWELLING				
		HOUSES	AGRICULTURAL	OTHERS		
Total No. of Properties in District ..	..	8	3,919	211	298	4,436
Total No. Inspected .. .. .	..	8	1,505	29	8	1,550
No. Found to be Infested with Rats ..	..	8	892	29	8	937
No. Found to be Seriously Affected by Mice	—	—	4	—	—	4
No. Treated by Local Authority .. ..	..	8	896	—	8	912

One full-time operator was employed throughout the year. Where farms are found to have an infestation the farmer is advised to contact the A.E.C.

VERMIN DISINFESTATION

Four private houses were found to be infested with fleas, and four private and four council houses with bugs.

SECTION G

Prevalence of Infectious Disease Notified during Year

CASES NOTIFIED

DISEASE	CIVILIAN				1951	1950	1949
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	5	29	13
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	122	9	83
Measles	..	..	..	..	5	114	121
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	0	0	0
Acute Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	26	4	16
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	1	3	6
Ophthalmia—Neonatorum	..	..	..	..	0	0	0
Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	1	0	0
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	0	0	0
Infective Hepatitis	..	..	..	..	1	12	5
Dysentery	..	..	..	..	3	1	0
Paratyphoid Fever	..	..	..	..	1	0	0

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

		AGE GROUPS								
		SCARLET FEVER			WHOOPING COUGH			MEASLES		
AGE IN YEARS		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Under 1	..	..	—	—	3	3	6	1	—	1
1-2	..	..	—	—	13	15	28	2	4	6
3-4	..	..	1	2	17	19	36	4	4	8
5-9	..	..	—	2	24	24	48	16	24	40
10-14	..	..	—	—	—	2	2	2	1	3
15-25	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
25 and over	..	..	—	1	—	2	2	2	3	5
Age unknown	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total all ages		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		1	4	5	67	75	122	29	36	65

TUBERCULOSIS

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	TOTAL
No. of cases on register at commencement of year..	18	27	45	3	3	6	51
No. of cases added during the year ..	3	6	9	—	3	3	12
No. of cases removed during the year	1	3	4	—	—	—	4
No. of cases remaining on register at end of year ..	20	30	50	3	6	9	59

No action has been called for under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

SECTION E

ANTHRAX ORDER 1938

Several cases of anthrax in livestock were notified. The disposal of the carcasses of these animals, either by deep burial in lime or by incineration, was supervised.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937

I.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities **	1	9	4	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	2	51	45	—	—	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding outworkers' premises) ..	3	—	—	—	—	3
Total ..		60	49	—	—	

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more “cases”)

- \* *e.g.* Metropolitan Borough, County Borough, Borough, Urban District, Rural District.
- † *i.e.* Electrical Stations (Section 103(1)), Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).
- \*\* Wide differences exist in the lists kept respectively by the Local Authorities and H.M. Inspectors of Factories of the numbers of factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 of the Factories Acts, 1937 are enforced by Local Authorities. It is requested therefore that Local Authorities should, as soon as can conveniently be arranged, compare their lists of factories with the lists kept by H.M. Inspectors of Factories.

PART VIII OF THE ACT  
OUTWORK  
(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work								Section 110 No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)
Fur pulling	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22 29

SECTION G  
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47.—Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.  
No cases presented during the year calling for action in accordance with this Section of the Act.

G. P. BARCLAY,  
*Medical Officer of Health*

